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Message Text

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50
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 SSO-00 SS-15 NSC-10 EB-11

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OMB-01 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-15 AGR-20 COME-00 TRSE-00 DRC-01 SR-02 ORM-03

IO-13 DPW-01 IGA-02 L-03 H-03 /150 W
---------- 050731
P R 101130Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2931
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
CINCPAC
COMUSMACTHAI
DIA WASHDC
SECDEF
USAAG
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 9569

FOR STATE/AID

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, EAID, CB
SUBJ: RICE SITUATION

REF: PHNOM PENH 9372

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE RICE SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION SITUATION IN PHNOM PENH FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 2 THROUGH 9.

	9/2	9/3	9/4	9/5
BEGINNING STOCK	17,493.4	17,493.4	16,753.2	17,671.4
ROUTE 5	-	-	-	-

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ROUTE 4	-	-	-	-
MEKONG	-	-	1,600.0	-
TOTAL AVAILABLE	17,493.4	17,493.4	18,353.2	17,671.4
LESS DISTRIBUTION	-	740.2	654.7	600.3

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BALANCE	-	16,753.2	17,698.5	17,071.1
LESS ADJUSTMENT	-	-	27.1	-
BALANCE	-	16,753.2	17,671.4	17,071.1

	9/6	9/7	9/8	9/9
BEGINNING STOCK	17,071.1	16,544.4	15,886.1	15,238.2
ROUTE 5	-	-	-	-
ROUTE 4	-	-	-	-
MEKONG	-	-	-	-
TOTAL AVAILABLE	17,071.1	16,544.4	15,886.1	15,238.2
LESS DISTRIBUTION	4.6	6.0	41.6	-
BALANCE	16,544.4	15,886.1	15,238.2	15,238.2

2. STOCK POSITION. AS OF SEPTEMBER 9 THERE WERE 15,238.2 MT OF RICE AND PADDY (IN RICE EQUIVALENT) IN PHNOM PENH GOVERNMENT WAREHOUSES, AND APPROXIMATELY 3,200 MT OF RICE IN KOMPONG SOM. FORTHCOMING SCHEDULED DELIVERIES CONSIST OF ONLY 5,000 MT OF THAI RICE NOW EXPECTED TO ARRIVE O/A SEPTEMBER 24 (2,000 MT), OCTOBER 4 (1,600 MT), AND OCTOBER 14 (1,400 MT), AND 5,000 MT OF JAPANESE RICE WHICH HOPE-FULLY CAN ARRIVE BEFORE THE END OF OCTOBER.

ON THE BASIS OF AN AVERAGE DAILY DISTRIBUTION OF 539.5 MT DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, PHNOM PENH HAD ON HAND AS OF SEPT. 9 A 28.3 DAYS' SUPPLY OF RICE. EVEN IF DISTRIBUTION WAS TO BE REDUCED IMMEDIATELY TO 500 MT PER DAY FOR PHNOM PENH, AS THE GKR IS ENDEAVORING TO DO, THE PRESENT STOCK WOULD LAST ONLY 30.4 DAYS, I.E. OCT. 10.

3. RICE DISTRIBUTION. THE GKR RICE COMMITTEE SHOWS A GENUINE CONCERN OVER DWINDLING RICE STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH AND THE MARITIME PROVINCES. THE REDUCTION OF THE CIVILIAN RICE ALLOCATION FOR PHNOM PENH FROM 320 TO 300 MT A DAY BECAME EFFECTIVE ON SEPTEMBER 4. THE IMPACT OF THIS STEP SHOULD BEGIN TO BE FELT THIS WEEK. THE RICE COMMITTEE HAS SCHEDULED A SPECIAL WORKING MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER 10 TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE RICE QUOTA FOR CIVIL SERVANTS CAN BE REASONABLY CONFIDENTIAL

DECREASED. FOR HIS PART, THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMMERCE HAS APPOINTED A NEW DIRECTOR OF SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT AT THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AFTER DISCOVERING THAT EXTRA ALLOCATIONS OF RICE WERE GRANTED WITHOUT HIS CONCURRENCE TO VARIOUS HOSPITALS AND CONSUMERS' COOPERATIVES.

ON THE DEBIT SIDE, THERE IS AN INCREASING DEMAND FOR RICE ON THE PART OF REFUGEES RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS. KOMPONG SOM IS ALSO ASKING FOR AN INCREASE OF ITS MONTHLY QUOTA BECAUSE OF A SWELLING REFUGEE POPULATION NOW TOTALING 24,000 PERSONS. FOR THE PRESENT TIME THE GKR RICE COMMITTEE IS STANDING FAST ON ITS REFUSAL TO INCREASE ANY PRO-VINCIAL RICE QUOTA. THE COMMITTEE HAS STARTED AN ENERGETIC CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE MANIOC PLANTING IN DEFICIT AREAS AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR RICE.

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IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THESE BELATED EFFORTS WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE RICE SITUATION OVER THE NEXT TWO MONTHS.

4. THAI RICE. THE VESSEL WING PENG ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH ON SEPT. 4 WITH 1,600 MT OF THAI RICE. SONEXIM HAS REPORTED TO THE GKR'S RICE COMMITTEE EXCESSIVE PILFERAGE BY BOTH MILITARY PERSONNEL AND COOLIES IN THE COURSE OF UNLOADING THE VESSEL AT PHNOM PENH PORT. THE RICE COMMITTEE HAS REQUESTED THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TO TAKE STRINGENT MEASURES TO CONTROL THE MOVEMENT OF RICE AT DOCKSIDE.
WITH RESPECT TO THE SECOND TRANCHE OF 5,000 MT BROKENS, SHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS ARE COMPLETED. THE VESSEL ADRIANA IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN BANGKOK ON SEPTEMBER 12 TO LOAD APPROXIMATELY 2,000 MT. THE WING PENG PRESENTLY IN PHNOM PENH WILL RETURN TO BANGKOK ARRIVING THERE BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 16 AND 20 IN ORDER TO LOAD APPROX-IMATELY 1,600 MT. THE BALANCE OF 1,400 MT WILL BE PICKED UP LATER IN BANGKOK BY EITHER ONE OF THESE TWO VESSELS.

A HIGH-LEVEL GKR DELEGATION LED BY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS LONG BORET LEFT FOR BANGKOK SEPTEMBER 9 TO NEGOTIATE A FORMAL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT COVERING 25,000 MT OF RICE OR BROKENS.

5. JAPANESE RICE. THE GKR HAS COMPLETED ALL NECESSARY STEPS PREPARA-TORY TO THE COMPLETION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH GOJ FOR THE DONATION OF 5,000 MT OF RICE BY THE LATTER TO CAMBODIA. THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IS AWAITING THE TEXT OF AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS FROM TOKYO.

6. P.L. 480 RICE. THE KHMER EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS INFORMED
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SONEXIM
THAT AT THE SEPTEMBER 5 BID OPENING UNDER PA 78718 A SINGLE OFFER HAD BEEN RECEIVED AND ONLY FOR 5,000 MT, OF WHICH 2,500 MT AT $413.77 AND 2,500 MT AT $429.89 FAS GULF PORTS. THIS OFFER WAS NOT APPROVED BY USDA. A NEW INVITATION FOR BIDS WAS ISSUED ON SEPTEMBER 7 WITH BID OPENING SET FOR SEPTEMBER 12.

7. RICE AIRLIFT. DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD 110 MT OF RICE WERE AIRLIFTED BY THE GKR TO SVAY RIENG, AND ONLY 6 MT TO KOMPONG THOM. IN THE LATTER CASE, IT APPEARS THAT AIR CAMBODGE WAS HOLDING 1,422 MT OF P.L. 480 RICE DESTINED FOR KOMPONG CHAM AND WAS UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO STOCK ADDITIONAL RICE FOR KOMPONG THOM. ON SEPTEMBER 8, THE GKR'S RICE COMMITTEE FINALLY AUTHORIZED AIR CAMBODGE TO SWITCH DELIVERY OF THESE 1,422 MT TO KOMPONG THOM, WHICH HAS REPORTED A 150 MT SECURITY STOCK AS OF SEPTEMBER 5, OR A THREE-WEEK SUPPLY. THE LAST AIRLIFT TO KOMPONG CHAM TOOK PLACE ON AUGUST 24. KOMPONG CHAM HAS ABOUT A THREE-WEEK RICE SUPPLY ON HAND, BUT THE RICE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT DISTRIBUTION WAS GREATLY HAMPERED THIS PAST WEEK AS A RESULT OF HEAVY FIGHTING WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS.

8. ROUTE 4. THIS LOC IS STILL CLOSED, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE HOPEFUL

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SIGNS THAT FANK MIGHT SUCCEED IN RE-OPENING IT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. AT ANY RATE, NO RICE IS SCHEDULED TO MOVE BETWEEN KOMPONG SOM AND PHNOM PENH IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

9. ROUTE 5. THIS HIGHWAY WAS AGAIN INTERDICTED BY THE ENEMY ON SEPTEMBER 5. CONSEQUENTLY, A CONVOY OF 341 TRUCKS AND 132 TRAILERS IS HELD UP IN BATTAMBANG. ACCORDING TO A REPORT SENT TO SONEXIM BY THE DIRECTOR OF SORAPA WHO IS PRESENTLY IN BATTAMBANG, THE REQUISITIONING BY PROVINCIAL AUTHORITES OF 5,000 MT OF RICE FOR PHNOM PENH IS PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOOD SHORTAGE, RICE, AIR TRANSPORTATION, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PHNOM09569
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
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ISecure: 1
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Subject: RICE SITUATION
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To: STATE INFO BANGKOK
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DIA
SECDEF
USAAG

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MANILA
SEOUL
Type: TE
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